Bridgwater Port Sanitary Authority.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1908.

We have much pleasure in submitting our Report on the work of the Bridgwater Port Sanitary Authority for the year ending December 31st, 1908, and we herewith submit the usual yearly returns shewing the number and tonnage of Sailing and Steam Vessels belonging to the Port of Bridgwater.

		1908.		1907.
Number of Sailing Ships	...	65	...	67
Net Tonnage of same	...	4104	...	4232
Number of Steam Ships	...	10	...	11
Net Tonnage of same	...	548	...	610

We also beg to submit returns shewing the number of Vessels and Tonnage entering the Port of Bridgwater during the year ending December 31st, 1908.

		WITH CARGOES.				IN BALLAST.			
		SAILING.		STEAM.		SAILING.		STEAM.	
		No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.	No.	Tons.
Coastwise	British ...	1,089	61,743	606	44,743	122	6,249	25	2,013
	Foreign ...	1	33			1	143		
Foreign	British ...	4	393						
	Foreign ...	19	3,793	11	3,931	1	69		

The following return gives the totals of both British and Foreign Ships, and Tonnage of all classes throughout the year 1908, added to which those of the preceding year are shewn.

		1908.			1907.	
		SHIPS.	TONNAGE.		SHIPS.	TONNAGE.
British	...	1,846	115,141	...	1,821	111,869
Foreign	...	33	7,969	...	39	9,841

With regard to the Sanitary work, we have to submit the following return :—

Number of Vessels inspected	...	1,578
Sanitary Defects notified	...	11

the details of which are as follows :

	BRITISH.	FOREIGN.	TOTAL.
Forecastle dirty	1	—	1
,, want of ventilation ...	2	—	2
,, defective floor and ladder	1	—	1
,, Ship's stores in same ...	1	—	1
,, bare iron to be insulated	1	—	1
W.C. in dirty condition ...	—	3	3
Want of Water	—	2	2
Totals	6	5	11

During the past year the general health of the Port has been very good, and only one complaint has been received by your Officers concerning the health of the Officers and Crew of any vessel entering the Port. The one complaint refers to S.S. Torrington, which came to Bridgwater on 1st June, having on board the body of the Fireman, who died during the voyage from Liverpool. The result of the inquest, held by the Borough Coroner, was that the deceased died from natural causes, his last illness not being of an infectious character.

Information was received from Southampton that a member of the Crew of a vessel which had Small Pox on board was staying in Bridgwater. He was kept under observation by the Medical Officer of Health, and his health during his stay in the Town, and at the time of his return to the ship, was good.

With reference to the visit of Dr. Reece, of the Local Government Board, on the 8th of January, 1908, as to the spread of Cholera westward, steps were immediately taken to ascertain the names of vessels and dates of probable arrival coming from the Baltic to this Port, and the result of such inquiries shewed that out of 9 vessels chartered here, 8 were from Swedish Ports, and only one from the Russian Port of Riga. This being a suspected Port, the vessel was boarded at Burnham, the Captain, Officers and Crew were examined by the Medical Officer of Health, and found to be in good health.

Regulations as to the examination of Foreign Meat and unsound Food were received from the Local Government Board in October last, and received our careful consideration, and we would point out such articles are only received into this Port by Coastwise vessels, and are not imported direct, consequently we cannot make any recommendation as to what steps (if any) should be taken to carry out these orders so far as this Port is concerned.

During the past year your Officers have inspected several Sites near the River which in their opinion would be suitable for the purpose of either renting existing property, or erecting a building for the purpose of isolating cases of infectious disease other than Cholera, Yellow Fever and Plague, but up to the present time we have been unsuccessful. Negotiations are proceeding in reference to one Site, and as soon as these are sufficiently advanced to lay before you, that will be done.

G. W. HARVEY BIRD, Medical Officer of Health.

FRANCIS PARR, Inspector of Nuisances.

27th January, 1909.